

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/24/2009 has been entered. In the submission, the Applicants amended claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 15 and 16; and canceled claim 8. Currently claims 1-7 and 9-16 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael E. Belk (attorney for the Applicants) on 6/25/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 6 Line 2 please amend as follows:

Please add the words: "*and thin control electrodes*", after the word "electrodes" before the comma.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 1-7 and 9-16** are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claims 1 and 16, the prior art of record does not disclose a display device which includes "independently controllable control electrodes...operation as a single broad light source or a plurality of narrow light sources, and array of light intensity modulators" in combination with "wherein said control electrodes are skewed relative to a corresponding one of said string of said light intensity modulators such that said control electrodes extend under a plurality of said light intensity modulators", as required in claims 1 and 16.

Eichenlaub in US 5,349,379 teach a display device which includes lamps that can illuminate as a broad light or narrow light lines (through a diffuser, Fig. 2) but fails to teach the location of the light source electrodes.

Balogh in US 2003/0058209 teaches a 3D image display which includes and LCD as light modulators and an LED array backlight (Figs. 1-2), however, although the LEDs are shown in a matrix arrangement (Fig. 19), Balogh does not teach the control electrodes skewed relative to a string of pixels (Fig. 19, P are pixels in the LCD screen 20, and S are LEDs in the backlight 10).

Kato et al. in US 2004/0004594 teaches a backlight (Fig. 1-2) where the light is emitted to the LCD through a prism, but the electrodes are shown parallel to the LCD (Fig. 2, LCD 12, electrodes 24 and 26, and prism 28).

Finally, Kashima et al. in US 6,504,589 teaches a backlight for an LCD which has a source light with a tapered light guide (Figs. 1-6, light source 1 and light guide 6), but the light guide disperses light by optical means (col. 5 lines 46 to col. 6 line 14), and Kashima et al. do not teach the location of the backlight electrodes.

Nor does any other prior art disclose this feature.

The dependent claims 2-7 and 9-15, are allowed for at least the same reason indicated above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LILIANA CERULLO whose telephone number is (571)270-5882. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amr Awad can be reached on 571-272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/L. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 2629

/Amare Mengistu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629